

**A RESOLUTION
BY COUNCILMEMBER ANDRE DICKENS**

A RESOLUTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ANDRE DICKENS REQUESTING THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY REGARDING CREATING A SINGLE TRANSPORTATION-FOCUSED DEPARTMENT, AN ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) WITHIN THE CITY OF ATLANTA THAT WILL DESIGN, OPERATE, MANAGE AND MAINTAIN THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AND TRANSIT PROJECTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE; AND FOR PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta ("City") has made major strides to administer its public transit services in a manner that establishes an effective and safe public transportation system and provides the public and businesses access, mobility and enjoyment.

WHEREAS, currently, the City's transit needs are not clearly consolidated under any single Department of the City, and

WHEREAS, Department of Public Works, which also handles issues unrelated to transportation such as sanitation, recycling and fleet services, has primary responsibility for transportation infrastructure design, construction, and maintenance based on various sporadic funding allocations; and

WHEREAS, the City has historically underfunded its transportation infrastructure investments with the exception of special bond and tax investment initiatives which provide unsustainable temporary funding to offset long term funding shortfalls, and

WHEREAS, multiple City agencies, quasi- City Agencies, and community partners, including but not limited to the Atlanta Beltline, The City Parks Department, The Buckhead CID, the Midtown Alliance, and ADID routinely seek the cooperation of the City in securing and utilizing State and Federal funding to support their respective project initiatives, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Community Development's Mobility Planning manages updates to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan/The Connect Atlanta Plan; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish this goal, the City has invested in several major transit initiatives designed to alleviate traffic congestion and improve the City's transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2016, City of Atlanta residents overwhelmingly voted to authorize a four-tenths of a penny Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for Transportation ("T SPLOST") to help generate approximately \$300 million to fund significant and expansive transportation projects citywide, over a five-year period; and

WHEREAS, additionally, City of Atlanta residents also voted to authorize a half-penny sales tax for transit expansion and enhancements for the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority ("MARTA"); and

WHEREAS, the MARTA sales tax is estimated to generate \$2.5 billion, allowing MARTA to make major investments in transit infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City is also in the process of expanding the Atlanta Beltline and the Atlanta Streetcar to connect additional neighborhoods and other popular designations throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, many leading cities have single transportation-focused departments; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to explore and evaluate best practices and successful organizational models, resource allocations, reporting structures, and scope of responsibility to most effectively and efficiently leverage and enhance its resources and focus its efforts around transportation coordination, improvements, funding, planning, design, development, construction, and improvements in the City of Atlanta and in support of Regional Transportation improvement efforts, and

WHEREAS, with all of these aforementioned individual efforts being simultaneously undertaken, it is the desire of the City to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of the City of Atlanta creating a single transportation-focused department, an Atlanta Department of Transportation (DOT), to manage the City's transit projects and infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, that the Commissioner of Public Works is hereby requested to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of the City of Atlanta creating a single transportation-focused department. The Public Works Commissioner is authorized and encouraged to seek outside consulting for the study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Works Commissioner shall at a minimum consider as part of the feasibility study:

- The need for a single transportation-focused department
- The organizational structure
- The scope and responsibility
- Funding resources
- Best practices as compared to other municipalities of similar size, The cost associated with creating a single transportation-focused department.
- The pros and cons of having a single transit-focused department that would be responsible for all of the City's transportation system and transit projects and improvements.
- The funding for a proposed single transportation-focused department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Works Commissioner shall provide the results of the feasibility study to the Transportation Committee no later than June 30, 2017.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.